

Remarks

Applicant again acknowledges with appreciation the indication of the allowability of claims 9, 11 through 13, 18 through 21 and 30.

Claim 1 has been amended to remedy the indefiniteness cited with respect to the recitation “pivotal movement thereof.” The claim now provides for each of the blades being provided with means operatively interconnecting the support frame and the blade for yieldably biasing the elongated section of the blade into engagement with the elongated sections of the other blades, and each of the blades being provided with means for restraining the pivotal movement thereof at selected angles. The “pivotal movement” relates to each of the blades and particularly with respect to the recitation in claim 1, lines 5 through 7 which provide for each of the blades having an elongated section, a second end section and an intermediate section pivotally connected to the frame wherein each blade is pivotal in a plane including the centerline.

With respect to the antecedent basis for the term “biasing means” in claims 8 and 9, Applicant would advise that claims 8 and 9 are dependent on claim 2 which in turn is dependent on claim 1 which provides in lines 8 through 10 thereof for each of the blades being provided with means operatively interconnecting the support frame and the blade for yielding biasing the elongated section of the blade into engagement with the elongated sections of the other blades.

Claim 10 which is dependent on claim 1 has been amended to recite the blade restraining means recited in claim 1 comprises a plurality of blocks, each block interacting with a respective second end section of a respective blade to hold the respective blade in the selected position. It is submitted that such amendment obviates the objection of a lack of antecedent basis.

Each of the remaining claims in the application has been rejected as being anticipated by either Karlin et al or Charters or as being obvious in view of Charters. Applicant submits that

neither of such cited references discloses or teaches the basic arrangement as recited in the rejected claims.

Each of the rejected claims provides for each of the blades being pivotally connected to the frame wherein each blade is pivotal in a plane including the centerline of the support frame, means operatively interconnecting the support frame and the blade for yieldably biasing the blade into engagement with sections of the other blades and means for restraining the pivotal movement of the blade at selected angles. It is submitted that neither of the cited references discloses such structure.

Referring to Karlin et al, initially, it is to be noted that none of blades 2, 3 or 4 is pivotally connected to any one of arcuate members 5, 6 and 7. Each of such blades is rigidly connected to an arcuate member by means of a bolt and wingnut combination. Secondly, it is to be noted that Karlin et al does not provide for any means for yieldably biasing the blades into engagement with the other blades. Support blocks 8 and 9 of such structure function no more than to interconnect a pair of arcuate members supporting the blades, and permit the pivotal movement of such arcuate members relative to such blocks. Thirdly, Karlin et al fails to provide any means for restraining any yieldingly biased pivotal movement of any of the blades. Accordingly, it is submitted that Karlin et al is not an anticipation of the structure recited in Applicant's claims.

With respect to Charters, initially, it will be noted that there is not provided at least three blades circumferentially spaced relative to the centerline of the device, each being pivotally connected to a frame wherein each blade is pivotal in a plane including the centerline of the device. Each of elongated members 11 is merely supported at one end in retaining member 13 and simply is adapted to engage an inner surface of annular member 31 which simply acts as a

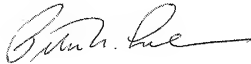
fulcrum. Secondly, it is to be noted that none of such blades is provided with means operatively interconnecting a support frame and a blade for yieldably biasing the blade into engagement with the other blades. Clearly, there is no means operatively interconnecting any of elongated members 11 with annular member 31 for biasing elongated members 11 into engagement with each other. Any biasing of elongated members 11 is provided by the biasing action of retainer member 13 utilizing annular member 31 as a fulcrum but only when the elongated members are displaced radially relative to annular member 31 through string arrangement 33. String arrangement 60 contortedly may be construed as a means for restraining the pivotal movement of the blades at selected angles but such arrangement is not operatively connected to annular member 31.

Charters essentially provides a different assembly operating in a different manner in seeking to provide the same result as the claimed invention. It utilizes a predisposition of elongated members 11 in retaining member 31, as shown in Figure 1, to permit the insertion of the free ends of the elongated members into the cavity to be examined. Upon insertion of the free ends of such members in the cavity, the cavity is expanded simply by operating string mechanism 33 to cause the elongated members to displace radially into engagement with annular member 31 as shown in Figure 3. With the elongated members engaging annular member 31 which acts as a fulcrum, string mechanism 60 may be utilized to contract restraining member 13 and thus further radially displace the free ends of the elongated members. The claimed invention is constructed differently and operates differently to provide for the radial displacement of its blade members. Such displacement relies on the pivotal connection of the blades to an annular member, the biasing of such blades together by means of a biasing means operatively interconnecting the blades and the annular member to which the blades are pivotally connected,

the manual contraction of the opposite ends of the blades to pivot the free ends of the blades apart, and a restraining mechanism operatively interconnecting the annular support member of the blades and the blades which function to retain the blades in the displaced condition. Accordingly, it is submitted that not only do the cited references fail to disclose all of the elements of the claimed invention but Charters fails to teach such invention.

In view of the foregoing, it respectfully is requested that the rejection of Applicant's claims be withdrawn, such claims be allowed and further that the application be passed to issue. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees or credit any overpayment of fees in connection with this communication to Deposit Account No. 14-1437.

Respectfully submitted,



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PNL:cb
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